

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03455 271228Z

47 42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-11 EUR-25 SS-20 SP-03 L-03

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R 271145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5891

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3455

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, JM

SUBJECT: OPIC SPONSORED BAUXITE/ALUMINA RESEARCH
STUDY

1. ROBIN G. ADAMS, "COMMODITIES RESEARCH UNIT" WITH OFFICES IN LONDON AND NEW YORK, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 26 JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR PORT-OF-SPAIN. ADAMS, WHO IS BRITISH, SAID HIS CONSULTING FIRM HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY OPIC IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE BAUXITE-ALUMINA INDUSTRY. EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON THE INDUSTRY'S ECONOMIC HEALTH, IMPACT OF GOJ TAXATION, ON PRODUCTION COST AND PRICES, SUBSTITUTION EFFECTS, FUTURE INVESTMENT TRENDS IN THE INDUSTRY, ETC. ADAMS STATED HIS FIRM HAD BEEN WORKING ON THE PROJECT SINCE SEPTEMBER 1. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE REPORT, WHICH CONCERNED THE EFFECT OF THE TAX ON PRODUCTION COSTS AND ALUMINA PRICES, WAS DUE NOVEMBER 1. THE ANALYTICAL SECTION OF THE REPORT WAS DUE DECEMBER 15. ADAMS STATED HE HAD CONTACTED ALCOA AND ALPART AND ALSO CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF MINES ALLAN ISAACS AND OTHER OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY. HE STATED HE HAD ALSO HAD TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH ROUSSEAU

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PAGE 02 KINGST 03455 271228Z

2. ADAMS WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF SENSITIVITY

OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOJ AND THE BAUXITE-ALUMINUM COMPANIES. IN FACT HE INDICATED THE COMPANIES IN THE U.S. WERE BEGINNING "TO CLAM UP" WHEN HE EXPLAINED HIS FIRM HAD BEEN HIRED BY OPIC.

3. EMBASSY HAD REGRETTABLY NOT BEEN NOTIFIED CONCERNING PROPOSED STUDY NOR ITS SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION. ASIDE FROM EXTREMELY AWKWARD TIMING, FIRM'S REPORT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE CONSIDERED PREJUDICIAL BECAUSE OF OPIC INVOLVEMENT. EMBASSY REQUESTS PRIOR NOTIFICATION FROM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ANY OTHER CONSULTANTS, REPRESENTATIVES, ETC., WHO MAY BE VISITING JAMAICA IN CONNECTION WITH OPIC. AT THIS TIME WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE ANY FALL-OUT EFFECTS RESULTING FROM GOJ KNOWLEDGE OF STUDY. GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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